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NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE INDIAN COUNTRY BEYOND THE OHIO, 1785

During the winter of 1784-1785, representatives of various tribes, including the Wyandot, Delaware, Chippewa, and Ottawa, came together at Fort McIntosh to treat with commissioners of the United States. Fort McIntosh, the scene of this gathering, stood on the right bank of the Ohio near the mouth of Beaver creek, about twenty-six miles below Fort Pitt. It had been erected six years before, late in the autumn of 1778, soon after the signing of the treaty of Fort Pitt on September 17, and was named for Brigadier General Lachlan McIntosh at that time in command of the western department. The treaty of Fort McIntosh was signed January 21, 1785, and declared the boundaries of the tribal lands, but owing to the feeling of unrest of the majority of the tribes beyond the Ohio the treaty was never effective, and only after ten years, by virtue of the treaty of Greenville, August 3, 1795, were the questions definitely settled.

The Shawnee, ever hostile to the frontier settlements of Virginia, did not join in the treaty of Fort McIntosh, but soon another treaty was contemplated by the United States to include this tribe. On August 18, 1785, four agents of the government left Pittsburgh, and during the late summer and early autumn passed through the Indian country, visiting many villages, arriving on September 20 at the Shawnee village of Mequachake, on the headwaters of Mad river, in the present Logan county, Ohio. Fortunately the following interesting account of the expedition was prepared by a member of the party, Samuel Montgomery, who dated it "At the mouth of the great Miami on the Ohio — 1785." The manuscript is preserved among the papers of the continental congress (no. 56, folios 231-250) in the Library of Congress.

The agents were partially successful in their endeavors to have members of the different tribes gather at the mouth of the Miami, a few miles west of the future city of Cincinnati. This

resulted in "a Treaty concluded at the Mouth of the Great Miami, on the North-western Bank of the Ohio, the thirty-first day of January, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-six, between the Commissioners Plenipotentiary of the United States of America, of the one Part, and the Chiefs and Warriors of the Shawanoe Nation, of the other Part." The treaty was signed by three commissioners and eight Indians. Among the witnesses were Samuel Montgomery, the author of the journal, John Boggs, Daniel Elliott, and James Rinker, his companions. "The Half King of the Wyandots" and "Capt. Pipe, of the Delawares," both of whom were mentioned in the narrative, were likewise witnesses, in addition to many others. Article ii, of the treaty states:

"The Shawanoe nation do acknowledge the United States to be the sole and absolute sovereigns of all the territory ceded to them by a treaty of peace, made between them and the King of Great Britain, the fourteenth day of January, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four."

DAVID I. BUSHNELL, JR.

JOURNAL OF SAMUEL MONTGOMERY

The present situation of the United States, with respect to the Indian nations who surround them, requires the greatest and most minute attention. Every circumstance which will tend to inform us of their genius or disposition ought to be most strictly attended to. Those particularly who have the public confidence should endeavour as much as possible to give their country such information as the capacity in which they act, and the opportunity they may have in consequence thereof, indispensably require. I have therefore from these considerations been particular in the occurrences, and the remarks which I have made relative to the Indians, and whether they should appear favourable or not, as I have derived them from observation, and not from mere conjecture. I think myself bound to communicate them without disguise in the manner in which they appeared to me.

I sett out from Pittsburg on the 18th of august in company with Mess^{rs} Boggs, Elliot, and Rinker,¹ with whom I was joined in the important and interesting business of inviting the western Indian nations to a treaty to be held at the mouth of the great Miami on the Ohio. The various re-

¹ These were evidently John Boggs, Daniel Elliott, and James Rinker, who, together with Samuel Montgomery and many others, were witnesses to the treaty with